

# 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

The Season of Creation



God's work. Our hands.



Join us for a day of service!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

*Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!*



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



**Postures** are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



**Holy Communion** is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to acknowledge and honor the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie  
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson  
Music Director: Dr. Aria Thomé  
Organist: Amy Crousore  
Council President: Gary Borkowski

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Office Hours: Vary. Please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

**Church Office – (314) 352-8050**

[office@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)

[www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)

## *ELW Holy Communion Setting Four*

*Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.*

### GATHERING

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**PRELUDE:** *Balm in Gilead*

*African-American spiritual arr. by Robert Powell*

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord*

**Hymn# 580**

### GREETING:

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also, with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE:

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

Hymn# 771 (verse 1 only)

### God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**AM:** Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

*The congregation is seated.*

## MISSION MOMENT

Rick Schuessler

# WORD

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## First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

<sup>4</sup>The camp followers with them had a strong craving, and the Israelites also wept again and said, “If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic, <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom as a wet nurse carries a nursing child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me, saying, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once— if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.” <sup>16</sup>So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting and have them take their place there with you.”

<sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord, and he gathered seventy elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. <sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen ones, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord's spirit would be put on them!”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 19:7-14

*The choir will lead the singing of the Psalm with the congregation singing the bolded lines.*

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-<sup>1</sup> lives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom<sup>1</sup> to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-<sup>1</sup> joyce the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light<sup>1</sup> to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en-<sup>1</sup> dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous<sup>1</sup> altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than<sup>1</sup> much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey<sup>1</sup> in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser-<sup>1</sup> vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is<sup>1</sup> great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's<sup>1</sup> own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my<sup>1</sup> secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion<sup>1</sup> over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a<sup>1</sup> great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable<sup>1</sup> in your  
sight,  
O LORD, my strength and<sup>1</sup> my redeemer.**

## SECOND READING: JAMES 5:13-20

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My dear family, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: MARK 9:38-50

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. <sup>42</sup>“If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the dominion of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SERMON

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: *God's Work Our Hands***

### ***Verse 1:***

God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.

Bless, God, our hands as we work in your  
name,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.

### ***Verse 2:***

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  
following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom,  
running the race with God's future the goal.

Bless, God, our feet as we follow your  
way,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.

### ***Verse 3:***

God's work, our voice: singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love for the lost  
and the least.

Bless, God, our voice as we speak  
in your name,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.

### ***Verse 4:***

God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and  
bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free,  
humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.

Bless, God, our lives as we answer  
your call,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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## **THE CREED**

**P:** Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## THE PRAYERS

**AM:** Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**AM:** ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

**P:** Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

*The congregation is seated.*

## MEAL

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**THE OFFERING:** *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J. S. Bach

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

**AM:** Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.'

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

**P:** Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*The congregation is seated.*

*All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.*

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

### *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Lord, Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*  
*There is a Balm in Gilead*

**Hymn# 808**  
**Hymn# 614**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**AM:** Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*These are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.*

### **BLESSING**

**P:** God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.  
**Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** *In Christ there is No East or West*

**Hymn# 650**

### **DISMISSAL**

**AM:** Go in peace. Follow Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Prelude in F minor*

by Leon Boellman

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Today's flowers are sponsored by Don Kurt  
in honor of the birthday of his late wife, Jane.

<b>WORSHIP LEADERS</b>	
PREACHER/PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Betsy Bartholomew
USHERS	Cayce Morice Peggy Lewis
ASSISTING MINISTER	Angie Fulton
LECTOR	Chris Schmidt
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Lindsay Schuessler
BREAD BAKER	Natalie Fontana
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<b>Needed</b>
DONUT DRIVER	Cayce Morice
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family
CAMERA	Linus Christian
WINE	Stephen Brown

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**God's work. Our hands.** Join us today for our annual day of service immediately following the worship service. There are three activities in the fellowship hall and one activity outside in the church yard. You may also attend the **Tower Grove Pride Fest** with **Lutherans for Love and Pride** or with **Project Sanctuary**.

**Blood Drive on Monday!** Sign up to donate blood tomorrow at Gethsemane in the Fellowship Hall from 1-5pm. Walk-ins are welcome but donors are encouraged to sign up ahead of time.

**Schnucks Food Drive for the Little Free Pantry:** On October 5th, the Social Action team is hosting a food drive at Schnucks - Hampton Village to collect items for the Little Free Pantry. We need your help! Sign up to sit/stand next to the donation cart and pass out info sheets with a most-needed items list. Families and children are welcome to sign up. These drives have a big impact (January's drive collected 1,668 items!) for a big need (our pantry is often emptied the same day it's filled). Sign up online and in the Fellowship Hall.

**Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.** Bring your pets and join us for a brief service to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Treats for humans and dogs will be available after the blessing, and you can make a paw print of your pet using pet-safe ink to remember the occasion. Animals must be on a leash or in a secure carrier for their safety. We will collect a free will offering and will be collecting old towels, blankets or sheets for shelter pets. Financial donations and pet supplies will be donated to Gateway Pet Guardians.

**Fellowship Hosts Needed!** Please sign-up on the sheet in the kitchen. If we do not get enough sign-ups we may not have coffee. Eeeeeek!

**Church Work Day coming up on Saturday, October 12 from 9am-2pm.** More information can be found online. Twice a year the property committee hosts a day to spruce up our sanctuary and building. There will be projects for everyone and there are always snacks!

**Get to Know Gethsemane!** Are you not yet a member and interested in learning more about this congregation? We're hosting a discussion and dinner (which also serves as our New Member Orientation) on **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 PM**—let us save you a space at the table! Sign up on the back of your green worship insert or check the church website.

**LuMin meals!** Please see the sign-up sheet online to sign up to provide meals to the Dinner and Jesus nights at LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry). The next dates Gethsemane has signed up for are: 10/13, 11/10, and 12/08. Detailed instructions are on the sign up.

**Thursday e-newsletter!** Gethsemane is using Constant Contact to send the weekly e-news on Thursdays. If you would like to be included, please click this QR code to fill out a form indicating that you would like to be added to the list. Also, be sure to check your spam or junk folders!



**Request of the Month:** Thank you for donating diapers in September! Did you know that St. Anthony's, one of our social ministry partners, receives 60,000 diapers each year from the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank? That's 5,000 diapers each month for families with babies and young children! We were able to bring 3,771 diapers to St. Anthony's to help them reach their goals. Yay! In October we will collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, and socks.

### **Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar September 29 – October 6, 2024**

9/29 Today	9:30 am 10:30 am	One Worship Service (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday): In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship and “God’s Work, Our Hands” Day of Service
9/29 Today	11 am - 5 pm	Tower Grove Pride Fest (day 2)
9/29 Tonight	5:00 pm	Vocal Choir Rehearsal
9/30 Monday	1-5 pm 6:00 pm	Blood Drive Handbell Choir practice (Sanctuary)
10/1 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
10/2 Wednesday	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
10/5 Saturday	10 am – 6 pm	Little Free Food Pantry Blitz at Schnucks!
10/6 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 4-5 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour and Sunday School Worship Service: In-Person Blessing of the Animals Vocal Choir Rehearsal

## Upcoming Dates to Consider

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sat, Oct. 12	9 am – 2 pm	Church Work Day
Sun, Oct. 13	4-7 pm	New Member Orientation
Tues, Oct. 15	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sun, Oct. 27	8:30 am, 11 am	Reformation Sunday, Confirmation, Reception

**Blood Pressure (BP):** First and third Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall.

**Women’s Luncheon:** Fourth Monday of every month. \*Except for Holidays.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

Family and friends of **Kathy Lee:** comfort and peace as they mourn her death

**Cindy Breed:** healing after surgery

**Jack Wind:** healing after shoulder surgery

**Steve Hetager:** recovering at home

**Bill Scanlan:** speedy recovery

**Barb Johnson:** healing, comfort, and strength

**Margaret Lenhart:** recovering at home

**Tatum Family**

**Garrett Finazzo:** Organization, inspiration, and fortune

<b>Request for:</b>	<b>On Behalf of:</b>
Mom and Dad (continued health); farmers of the world, City of St. Louis, Upcoming elections	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Bonnie and Don (peace); Ginny Olson (strength, stamina); Nicole and Haemin (healthy pregnancy); the people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories, Sudan and Ukraine; all impacted by disaster; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Elise (comfort, healing, peace)	<i>Dell Roth</i>
Jon Hackmann (healing)	<i>Sue Hackmann</i>
Gratitude for church community	<i>Erika Starr-Hunter</i>
Bill Scanlon (healing)	<i>Wind Family</i>
Strength in grief and depression, guidance through anger, building a closer relationship through God	<i>Joseph Nave</i>
Healing, comfort and peace for Ed, Jeff, Celeste, Nate and Patty	<i>Garrett Finazzo</i>
Family and friends of Kathy Lee (comfort and peace)	<i>Chris Schmidt</i>
Fred Tatum and family following Fred’s auto collision, Lenharts (healing)	<i>Tatum Family</i>
Family unity, Glendel and son, Frank (healing)	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>

## Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace...

People of any race or ethnicity...

People who are male, female, transgender, or any other gender identity...

People of any age...

People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys...

People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered...

People who are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation...

People with a variety of political perspectives...

People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record...

People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or homeless...

People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities...

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.

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